

away each application so that the Committee would have a file of precedents on which to refer.

It was in the defense of those EPW Committee rules that Mike became a small legend. In particular, he staunchly defended the Committee rule that prohibited the naming of public buildings for any living individual under the age of 70. But, lest you think Mike is perfect, even his best oratorical skills and most reasoned argument in defense of the rule were never a match for the political imperative involved in a naming bill. Mike lost every single one of those arguments.

When I took over as the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee in 2001, Mike moved over as the Deputy Chief of Staff and General Counsel. Once again, Mike took responsibility for updating the Committee rules and establishing a record of precedents.

Mike not only mastered committee rules, he mastered the Senate rules. On his last day in the Senate, the Senate Parliamentarian noted that Mike was always prepared when he made a parliamentary inquiry. And, for the record, I have to warn the Senate Parliamentarian that Mike prepared comprehensive, annotated references for the Finance Committee staff and provided what is now affectionately known as "The Mike Evans' Procedure Seminar."

Ironically, despite his respect of the rules, last year he was thrown off the Senate floor with a bipartisan gaggle of Finance Committee staff for being too noisy. I believe Senator DAYTON presided over the ouster.

I have always respected a person who can manage both the demanding responsibilities of Senate staff while also caring for a growing family. And Mike has certainly done both. We were fortunate to be part of Mike's life as his family expanded from two—he and his wife Maureen—to six, with the addition of their four beautiful children: Sean, Christopher, Aselefech and Adanech. We have watched their children grow up and every step has been a reflection of their incredible parents.

Mike also found time to be one of the best read staffers I have ever known. I have no doubt that his counsel has been greatly strengthened by his acquaintanceship with thoughts and history beyond the reach of a single individual. And his literary interests are not limited to reading. He is a most prolific author. As with most staff, he has done more than his share of floor statements. And as a lawyer, he has drafted the occasional law review article. But his talents also extend to poetry, including the occasional rhyming remembrance of triumphs and things best left unsaid when a staff member departs.

Suffice it to say, Mike fancies himself a music impresario. He feels it is his duty to bring music to "the people." Some of that music is even good. Mike has been known to wear Bob Marley T-shirts in the office over the

weekend and sing Bruce Springsteen lyrics at the drop of a hat. In fact, when he discovered that one of the Finance Committee interns house-sat for Bob Dylan, the intern was suddenly spending more time in intense discussions with Mike.

Mike truly believes in the dignity and responsibilities of public service. He understands that when it comes to working in the Senate, as Bruce Springsteen would say, "the door's open but the ride ain't free." So, while he leaves the Senate staff to return to private practice at Preston Gates, I know that he will retain his commitment to service, to his family, to his colleagues, and to his country.

Every President, every member of Congress, every staff person in the United States Congress must first swear to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, to bear true faith and allegiance to the same and to faithfully discharge the duties of the office. Mike Evans lived by this oath every day of his public service in the Senate.

Mike follows the rules: The Senate rules. The Committee rules. And the rules by which he lives his life—loyalty, diversity, fairness, honesty, and compassion, coupled with an unexpected, yet sharp sense of humor.

I thank Mike for his dedication and the nearly two decades for which I have been fortunate enough to benefit his counsel and friendship. May we all follow his example, to have the wit to discover what is true and the fortitude to practice what is good.●

#### POPCORN

● Mr. TALENT. Mr. President, in 1996 the Congress promised agriculture producers that they would no longer be penalized for heeding market signals and raising crops the market demanded.

Two-hundred farmers in my home State of Missouri responded to strong domestic and foreign demand and planted acres of popcorn. Now, with the passage of the 2002 farm bill, these producers are greatly disadvantaged compared to farmers that stayed with traditional program crops.

Under the provisions of the 2002 farm bill, producers who opted to grow popcorn since 1996 on acreage traditionally dedicated to program crops or soybeans are severely penalized if they attempt to update their program acreage history or yield history.

Unless corrected, this will cause a substantial, potential loss to both farm income and land value. I believe that this problem should be corrected in the most expeditious manner, as the April 15 deadline for sign-up into the new farm programs is quickly approaching. Senator LUGAR and I have introduced an amendment to allow producers to include popcorn in their program base acres. I am grateful to managers on both sides for addressing this issue in a managers amendment.

The correction is simple. Popcorn is simply treated as a variety of the traditional corn for the purposes of determining bases and yields. I urge my colleges to support my amendment and allow the Department of Agriculture to consider popcorn equivalent to corn for the purpose of computing base acreage. There are 278,000 acres of land nationwide normally devoted to production of popcorn. We should not penalize those who farm this land because they believed the promises of the 1996 act. Popcorn growers in Missouri and across the Nation deserve equitable treatment when determining base acres.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. CLAY SWANZY

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments today to make some remarks in appreciation for the Alabama Congressional delegation's most senior staff member, Mr. Clay Swanzy. Originally from Greensboro, AL, one of Alabama's most charming towns, Clay retired in November after 31 years of service to the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Swanzy has served on the congressional staff of three different distinguished Alabama congressmen: former Congressmen Jack Edwards of Mobile and Bill Dickinson of Montgomery, and most recently Congressman TERRY EVERETT of Enterprise. He was known on the staff of each congressman for his hard work, dedication to duty, and loyalty. In 1971, former Congressman Jack Edwards hired Clay away from his position as a political reporter for the Mobile Press Register to become his press secretary in Washington. Clay remained with Congressman Edwards until Congressman Bill Dickinson of Montgomery offered him a position as his chief of staff. In 1993, when Congressman Dickinson retired, Clay remained in Washington as the chief of staff for Dickinson's successor, Congressman TERRY EVERETT.

After managing Congressman EVERETT's office for 10 years, Clay decided to retire from public service in Washington and return to Alabama.

Clay always enjoyed working behind the scenes, outside the glare of the political spotlights. His departure is a loss for the Second Congressional District and the State of Alabama. All who knew and worked with him will miss him.

On more than one occasion I have sought and received good advice from Clay. During his years of service he has learned much. He never panics, and always thinks clearly and with compassion for those involved. He is a strong leader, but one who leads by wisdom, thoughtfulness, insight and grace rather than threats or bluster. The people of Alabama have benefited greatly from his leadership. I, as well as many other government officials, have benefited greatly from his service. Clay has always been a leader among Alabama's delegation staff. They have valued his judgment, insight, and experience.

We will certainly miss Clay, but he has earned his retirement. As proof